



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Phillip P. Fitzpatrick, age 28 and Shawn Lowman, age 39, both of Aiken County, South Carolina, were sentenced in federal court in Columbia, South Carolina, for conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. United States District Judge Margaret B. Seymour of Columbia sentenced both Fitzpatrick and Lowman each to 87 months imprisonment followed by 5 years of supervised release and a special assessment of \$100. Four remaining defendants have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that federal and local law enforcement began investigating a number of individuals who were purchasing a large amount of pseudoephedrine. Based upon pharmacy log books

and interviews, they determined that this group worked with each other to purchase the pseudoephedrine which was then “cooked” into methamphetamine. The female members of the group primarily bought the pseudoephedrine and other ingredients which the male members then used to “cook” into methamphetamine. The pseudoephedrine was purchased from pharmacies and other stores in Aiken County and in Augusta, Georgia. For a period of time, this group was “cooking” methamphetamine almost every other day, in some cases producing 10-15 grams of methamphetamine during each “cook”.

The case was investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Aiken County Sheriff’s Department. Assistant United States Attorney William K. Witherspoon of the Columbia office handled the case.

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